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NEW YORK MAN SENTENCED FOR PASSPORT FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that ANGEL EDMUNDO SALINAS, 28, of Brooklyn, NY, was sentenced to serve one year of probation and to pay a fine of \$500.00 for committing passport fraud. Salinas pled guilty in June to one charge of passport fraud in U. S. District Court in Concord. Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement will now seek his deportation.

Salinas, an Ecuadorian national, admitted to having entered this country illegally from Mexico and subsequently using a false identity in his United States passport application. Claiming to have been born in the U. S. in the state of New Jersey, Salinas submitted a counterfeit New Jersey birth certificate, along with his passport application form, in March of 2001. The case resulted from an extensive investigation by the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service from the "National Passport Center" in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

U. S. Attorney Colantuono highly commended the U. S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service for what he termed the "exceptionally diligent and efficient" handling of the investigation, which is part of the government's "Operation Checkmate" initiative.

Salinas was sentenced by U. S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe. Assistant U. S. Attorney Helen White Fitzgibbon prosecuted this case.